

AGENDA ITEM IV A

PROPOSED ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY-EUNICE

REQUEST TO MERGE ACADEMIC UNITS

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REQUEST TO MERGE ACADEMIC UNITS

STAFF ANALYSIS

According to the University's proposal:

As part of its budget reduction plan for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, Louisiana State University Eunice is requesting permission to consolidate two academic divisions—the Division of Business and Technology and the Division of Nursing and Allied Health. The proposed academic unit will be renamed the Division of Professional Studies. The merger will reduce the number of academic divisions from four to three and will eliminate one full-time academic administrative position. The current Head of the Division of Nursing and Allied Health will assume leadership of the new division. The merger will not affect any of the academic programs presently offered by the two divisions....

This is a cost savings initiative that will eliminate an administrative position, saving the University \$19,111. The former division head has returned to full-time teaching, resulting in the salary savings.

With regard to the impact of the proposed merger upon programs and faculty, the proposal states:

The merger of the two divisions will concentrate into one division most of the certificate, diploma, and associate degree programs intended to prepare graduates for immediate employment upon completion of the program. The Division of Professional Studies will offer seven associate degrees, two technical diplomas, and seven certificates with an enrollment of nearly 1,600 majors. The Division of Liberal Arts and the Division of Sciences will focus upon transfer curricula and general education courses for academic programs across the campus with a combined enrollment of nearly 1,000 majors.

The merger will also balance the distribution of full-time faculty in the three academic units.

Division of Professional Studies	28
Division of Liberal Arts	31
Division of Nursing and Allied Health	18

The proposed merger of the two academic divisions will not require any substantive change to current physical facilities or equipment.

STAFF SUMMARY

The proposed merger appears to be academically feasible, while resulting in savings to the University. It also appear that this merger can be accomplished with a minimum of disruption to faculty, students, and university operations.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed merger of academic units at Louisiana State University-Eunice, as proposed. This merger shall be effective immediately.

AGENDA ITEM IV B

PROPOSED ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY-SHREVEPORT

REQUEST TO CONSOLIDATE ACADEMIC COLLEGES

AGENDA ITEM IV B
PROPOSED ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY-SHREVEPORT
REQUEST TO CONSOLIDATE ACADEMIC COLLEGES

STAFF ANALYSIS

According to the University's proposal:

Louisiana State University Shreveport is proposing to consolidate our four existing academic colleges into two colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Business, Education and Human Development. This is a measure to reduce expenses, improve efficiency, and remove previously identified internal barriers to collaboration and communication. There will be no change in the degree programs offered, and the only effects perceived by students should be positive as new interdisciplinary courses, certificates, and research initiatives are developed.

The proposed consolidation will result in significant financial savings conservatively estimated to be a minimum of \$250,000 per year. This figure should be considered in the context of an imminent budget cut of up to \$4.5 million. An additional benefit of the consolidation will be improved and more efficient use of office space. Many routine office processes, currently duplicated, will be merged. Operational details relating to committee structure, curricular matters, and performance measures will be phased in over the course of the 2009-2010 academic year with guidance from the relevant parties.

With regard to the impact of the proposed merger upon programs, administration, and faculty, the proposal states:

There will be no change in the degree programs offered, and the only effects perceived by students should be positive as new interdisciplinary courses, certificates, and research initiatives are developed.

The broad design for the consolidation calls for a Dean of each new College working with an Associate Dean who will provide complementary experience, vision, and guidance. The Deans who have been selected to serve currently serve as Deans of the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Education and Human Development. Associate Deans with, respective, backgrounds in the Sciences and Business have been selected. The two Deans and the two Associate Deans have met with their current and future faculty leaders in a series of meetings this spring in order to answer questions and prepare for the more detailed organizational-level work that

will begin with the start of the Fall 2009 semester. That step in the implementation will call upon the faculty for their ideas, vision, and recommendations on such details as committee structures, new or redesigned courses and certificates, new methods of instruction delivery, and new collaborations between disciplines. The dismantling of internal barriers to collaboration will, in particular, be a very effective response to criticism by various accrediting bodies in the past for the lack of cross-discipline work at LSUS.

STAFF SUMMARY

The proposed merger appears to be academically feasible, while resulting in significant savings to the University. It also appear that this merger can be accomplished with a minimum of disruption to faculty, students, and university operations with the side benefit of encouraging greater academic/research collaboration across former academic structures.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed merger of academic units at Louisiana State University-Shreveport, as proposed. This merger shall be effective immediately.